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Parks and Recreation Minutes 03/12/2002

Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 12, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The Park and Recreation Commission meeting came to order at 7:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Don Vitters, Leslie Mayer, Mark McCabe, Joe Carabello and Bernice Jones

Staff Present: Jon Jalbert

Others Present: From Arlington Soccer Club-Steve Moniak, Joan Preval, Elizabeth Rocha, Matthew Carmodu, Pedro Barbosa and Gregory Ginot; Bill Doherty-Arlington Youth Lacrosse

1. Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes of February 12, 2001. After corrections and additions, the minutes were approved 4-0.

2. Annual Reports

Mr. Vitters handed out the Park Commissioners Annual Report and Mr. Jalbert handed out copies of the Recreation Annual Report.

3. Arlington Soccer Club Steve Moniak

Mr. Moniak expressed his and ASC concerns with the possible deterioration of field conditions at Hills Hill and Thorndike Field. Mr. Moniak is asking the Park and Recreation Commission to develop and enforce a comprehensive and integrated policy which all users groups, adult and youth, high school and non-high school, are required to abide by in order to best maintain the long-term viability of the playing fields. Mr. Jalbert will meet with DPW and discuss ASC concerns. The Commission suggested updating the Field User Permit Policy to address some of these issues. Mrs. Mayer agreed to work with Mr. Jalbert in updating the policy to be implemented in the Fall of 2002. Mrs. Mayer and Mr. Jalbert will keep the Commission updated as the process moves forward.

4. Arlington Girls' Youth Lacrosse- Bill Doherty

Mr. Doherty was asked to be present tonight because of the expansion of 1 girls lacrosse team. Under the field permit policy, leagues are required to present their expansion to the Park and Recreation Commission. The Commission approved the expansion this year and approved the decision of expansions on a year-by-year basis. The approval was unanimous.

5. Budget for FY 03 and Program Fees- Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert reported that Finance Committee approved the Recreation Budget. Program Fees increase will be presented at the next meeting. There will not be a 15% increase across the board and instead Mr. Jalbert will look at each program and determine if a fee increase is possible.

6. Arlington Sports Center Improvement Committee- Mark McCabe

Mr. McCabe Presented notes from the past two meetings and Mr. Jalbert updated the Commission on the engineer doing the heating project. Mr. Jalbert reported that the survey is out.

7. Playground Update- Joe Carabello

Mr. Carabello presented a letter that was written to the Board of Health by a resident to investigate arsenic at wooden structure playgrounds. The Board of Health did a test at Robbins Farm playground and it came back a low positive. Mr. Carabello and Mr. Jalbert went out and did an inventory of all playgrounds in Arlington and took pictures at some of them. This inventory list was presented to the Commission. This topic will be on the next Board of Health meeting scheduled for March 20, 2002. Mr. Carabello will update the Commission in April on the results of BOH meeting.

8. Park Beautification Fund & Letter to the Editor- Leslie Mayer

Mrs. Mayer presented a letter pertaining to protecting Arlington's playing fields that she will submit to the Arlington Advocate. Motion was made to accept the letter and was unanimously approved.

The Commission discussed the field cancellation procedures and Mr. Jalbert explained the loop-holes the "red flag" system poses and recommended eliminating that system. Mr. Jalbert also stated he will continue to use the field cancellation phone line and notice on the Towns Web page. Motion was made to cancel "red flag" system but to continue with phone line and web page notifications. Motion approved unanimously.

Mrs. Mayer questioned the process and administration of the Park Beautification Fund. The Superintendent is supposed to have monthly reports on the Fund. Mr. Jalbert will present the current fiscal year report on the fund.

9. Capital Project Review and CDBG update-Don Vitters and Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert reported on the responses DPW gave to assist in Spy Pond and Robbins Farm projects. DPW will only agree to pruning, moving the bulletin board and moving any boulders. They will not take out the wooden playground or remove the existing tennis court at Robbins Farm.

Mr. Vitters distributed the meeting minutes from Carol Johnson on Robbins Farm and Spy Pond.

CDBG applications are due ASAP. Mrs. Mayer will complete the applications and give them to Mr. Jalbert. We will be applying for Scholarships \$15,000 and Peirce Playground \$60,000.

Mr. Vitters will update the 10-year capital project plan with help from Capital Budget Committee.

10. Recreation and Rink Update- Jon Jalbert

Mr. Jalbert presented a proposal from Joe Connelly, Winchester Rec. Director. Mr. Connelly is proposing selling non-resident tags to Winchester Residents \$5.00 less the set rate and to have use of the Res for his summer camp program for a few hours a day. The Commission did not vote and will wait for Mr. Jalbert to investigate how many non-resident tags we sell and how many were sold to Winchester residents last year. The Commission agreed that it would be only for this year since Winchester is closing their Res. Mr. Jalbert will also investigate to see if the hours of Winchester's summer camp program is good for us.

Mr. Jalbert raised the issue of trying to solve the Geese Issue at the Res, Spy Pond and Thorndike. Mr. McCabe volunteered to do some research and report back to the Commission in April.

Mr. Jalbert updated the Commission on Little League installing fencing that was approved at the last Commission meeting. It is moving smoothly and Mr. Giorgio from DPW is working with Mr. Jalbert in supervising the project.

11. Other

Joe Carabello made a motion to have Mr. Jalbert purchase a digital camera for the Recreation Department. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Commission adjourned at 11:00 pm.

Jon Jalbert, Superintendent of Recreation, took minutes

